

Appln No. 10/731,271

Amdt date February 24, 2005

Reply to Office action of November 24, 2004

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The above amendments and these remarks are in response to the Office action mailed on November 24, 2004. Claim 1 has been amended. Claims 20-32 have been added and are directed to subject matter disclosed in the application as originally filed. No new matter has been added. Claims 1-32 are now pending in this application. Reconsideration on the basis of the above amendments and remarks below is kindly requested.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-6 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by German Publication No. 29701895 (DE '895). Claim 1 is directed to a self-closing slide comprising a first slide member and a second slide member. The claim also requires a self-closing mechanism comprising a stationary housing and a spring. The claim further requires that the first slide member slides over the housing, that the first slide member comprises a first surface and that the second slide member comprises a second surface. The claim further requires that "when the first slide member is slid over the spring and housing, at least a portion of the spring and at least a portion of the housing are sandwiched between the first and second surfaces."

DE '895 discloses what appears to be a self-closing mechanism having what appears to be a housing 5. DE '895 also discloses what appears to be a first slide member 19 and a second slide member 17. Two springs 12 are external of the housing on opposite sides of the housing. When the second slide member 17 is slid over the housing, the housing and spring are not sandwiched between a first surface of the first slide member

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and a second surface of the second slide member as required by claim 1. As such, applicants submit that claim 1 is not anticipated by DE '895.

Claims 2-6 are all directly or indirectly dependent from claim 1. As such, applicants submit that claims 2-6 are also in condition for allowance over DE '895 as being depended from a claim allowable over DE '895 and for the additional limitations they contain therein.

Claims 12-15 were withdrawn, as there was no allowable generic claim. Claims 12-15 are all directly depended from claim 1. Claim 1 is now believed to be in condition for allowance. As such, applicants submit that claims 12-15 should be re-entered into the application and allowed as being depended from an allowable base claim and for the additional limitations contained therein.

Claims 7-11 and 16-19 were not rejected over any substantive ground and, as such, are assumed to be allowable.

New claims 20-32 are claims 7-19, rewritten respectively. Specifically, claim 20 is claim 7 rewritten in independent form to include all limitations of its base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 23 is claim 10 rewritten in independent form, including all limitations of its base claim. Claim 24 is claim 11 rewritten in independent form, including all limitations of its base claim. Claims 25-28 correspond to claims 12-15, which were originally withdrawn from consideration. However, these claims are all dependent from claim 24, which is now believed to be in condition for allowance. As such, applicants submit that claims 25-28 should also be considered and allowed.

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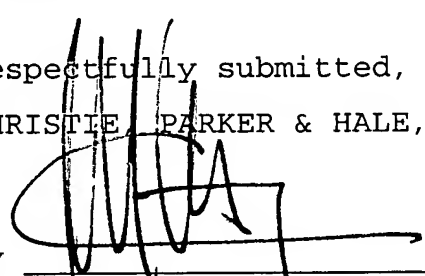
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Consequently, applicants submit that claims 20-32 are also in condition for allowance.

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 11, and 16-19 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over the claims of U.S. Patent No. 6,712,435. The Examiner also rejected claims 1-3, 10, 16 and 17 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over the claims of U.S. Patent No. 6,733,097. In response thereto, applicants are filing herewith two Terminal Disclaimers to overcome the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting over U.S. Patent Nos. 6,712,435 and 6,733,097, respectively.

The rejections to all claims pending in this application are believed to have been overcome, and this application is now believed to be in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner has any remaining questions or concerns about the allowability of this application, the Examiner is kindly requested to call the undersigned attorney to discuss them.

Respectfully submitted,
CHRISTIE PARKER & HALE, LLP

By 
Constantine Marantidis
Reg. No. 39,759
626/795-9900

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